

# LOUIS M. BROWN INTERNATIONAL CLIENT COUNSELING COMPETITION CLIENT INSTRUCTIONS

On behalf of the participants and everyone involved with the International Client Counseling Competition, thank you for assisting us. We hope you will find this to be a rewarding and enjoyable experience.

Please review the following information before the competition begins.

1. **BASIC FORMAT OF THE COMPETITION.** The International Client Counseling Competition simulates a law office consultation in which law students, acting as lawyers, are presented with a typical client matter. Your job is to play the role of the client. You will be interviewed by two or three teams, with each team consisting of two law students. The judges' job will be to decide which team did the best job in light of the standards for judging the competition. After the interviews are over, the judges will most likely ask your opinion about the teams.
2. **TIMING.** All interviews may last up to forty-five (45) minutes, but it is likely that the interview will end after 30 minutes has elapsed. You will be able to take a break between each interview. Approximately fifteen to twenty (15-20) minutes after you complete your last interview, you may be asked to speak with the judges.
3. **YOUR "SCRIPT" (CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION FOR CLIENTS AND JUDGES).** Each team is provided with a consultation memorandum that contains information that you have supposedly told their secretary when you made the appointment to see them. This information is all the student lawyers have. In contrast, you and the judges will be provided with a "script" that details your background, personality, and possible legal problem. The team members cannot see this script until after the competition is over.
4. **PLAYING YOUR ROLE.** Prior to the competition, you should become thoroughly familiar with your client role as described in the script. Within the framework of the script, it is entirely up to you how you will play the part.

**It is crucial that you act your part in the same way with each team.** If you act differently with each team, it will be difficult to evaluate which team did the best job. If you do one thing with the first team, you must do the same thing for the other teams (even if it varies from the information or directions in your script). Thus, if you make up certain facts for the first team, use those facts for later teams. Likewise, you should be as cooperative or uncooperative with the second and third teams as you are with the first.

On the other hand, you must play your role consistent with what is asked of you by the students. If one team is asking questions very much different from what another asks, you must respond to the agenda set by the students. Also, you may find that you are more comfortable with one team than with another team. Therefore, each interview may in fact be different from the next. But the difference should be a product of the behavior of the student competitors, not you. **Be sure to guard against the natural tendency to volunteer more information to later teams (as you become more familiar with the role and the questions) than to the first team.**

In the end, your consistency and familiarity with the client role are the keys to making the competition successful.

5. **CONFIDENTIALITY.** The script that you will receive is confidential. If you take it with you to the interview, make sure that you keep it with you at all times. **Do not discuss the problem between rounds with any team, even if the team has already competed. In fact, it is best to avoid even casual conversation with all teams until the competition has ended.**
6. **INABILITY TO PARTICIPATE ON THE DAY OF THE COMPETITION.** Please remember that a large number of students and lawyers (as judges) are depending on you. **Failure to play your role causes serious disruptions.** In the event that you will be unable to play your role, contact the competition coordinator as soon as you know that you will not be able to participate.
7. **THE INTERNATIONAL ASPECT OF THE COMPETITION.** You will be playing client for teams from different countries. The teams are allowed to apply the law of their home countries to your legal problem. If there are money issues in your problem, they may also use a different currency than you are familiar with. You should play the role as if you are in the home country of the lawyers. You will be informed during orientation which countries your “lawyers” will be from, so you can prepare. Please try not to favor one team over another because you are more comfortable with their accent or a particular cultural style.